Liberty Seated Collectors Club
Founded 1973

Half Crazy

The Newsletter of the Seated Half Society

Seated Half Society
Founded 2021

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Liberty Seated Collectors Club
Founded 1973
Liberty Seated Collectors Club
Uniting collectors of Liberty Seated coinage since 1973

Half Crazy

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SHS Membership

If you believe you qualify for membership, please contact Verne Pitman or myself to schedule an audit of your collection. All LSCC members who qualify are welcome (100 points needed for membership, see our webpage for details). We hope you will join our association and become a member of the Seated Half Society.

Current Membership 43

Dennis Fortier, SHS President
ricajun@msn.com

Verne Pitman SHS Vice-President
vwpitman@gmail.com

See the club by-laws and audit information at Lsccweb.org/LSCC/Seated-Half-Society.

All photos are used courtesy of Heritage Auctions, unless otherwise stated.

President's Letter

Dennis Fortier, SHS President

You may have noticed a change in our newsletter. The LSCC has hired a professional, Maria Fanning of Kolbe & Fanning Numismatic Booksellers, to put together the *E-Gobrecht* and *Half Crazy*. The content for *Half Crazy* is still coming from me but now we have someone who knows what they are doing to make it look professional.

In this issue we take a deep dive into the 1846 Liberty Seated Half Dollars of Philadelphia and New Orleans. We'll look at die varieties, date sizes, cuds, and more. We'll also take a special look at the 1846-O WB-25 as the Featured Variety. I suppose we could call this the Half Crazy 1846 issue.

Another new 1878-S has come to light. Bill Bugert's diagnostic page is included in this issue. Also, there is a special announcement concerning Bill's latest work, read on for more information. I added a few comments on Jeff Prichard's recent *Gobrecht Journal* article entitled "Disappearing Halves and Quarters."

In conversations to me, LSCC President Len Augsburger and other members of the LSCC leadership team have acknowledged the special value that the SHS lends within the LSCC and beyond to the numismatic community. The SHS was the dream of Bill Bugert, and I am privileged to do my part in bring it to life for all our members. Being a member of the Seated Half Society is something we can all be proud of.

Request for Content

Any publication is only as good as the content it receives from its members. Articles, stories and photos are always welcome and encouraged! Please submit to the SHS Editor, Dennis Fortier at ricajun@msn.com

Since 2023 five new 1878-S' have come to light. Four of the five grade details VG, either cleaned or damaged. One AG appeared from photos to possibly be problem-free, though it has not been seen in hand. Of special note, there is (if I am correct) a new Fair-2 on the NGC Pop Reports. Could that be the Ebay AG from 2023? Any information would be welcome, especially the certification number.

1878-S Half Dollar BB-56

Massive damage thru foot into rim Rim bumps at K-5, K-7, K-9, and K-11	Massive damage thru scroll end into legend Rim damage at K-4
Grade: VG8 details	Certified: PCGS VG Details #53503203
Cross reference: N/A	

Known Pedigree Details

Unknown Collector
ex-eBay listing by djjeweler, Ambler, PA, 2/2026 @ $45,000

Photo credit: PCGS.com

Notes:
This coin has no known records prior to this offering. It is an example of this rare date but unfortunately it was handled improperly.

Coming This Summer to a Website near You!

Bill Bugert's "A Register of 1873 No Arrows Open 3 Liberty Seated Half Dollars"

Continuing his series of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Key Dates and Major Varieties, Bill's latest work provides in-depth Annalise (with photos when possible) of each of the many 1873 NAO3's he has found over the last 50 years of hunting. His tireless numismatic efforts is providing a fantastic recourse for us and future collectors of the series. As always Bill's Registers will be found on the club website (Lsccweb.org/LSCC/Seated-Half-Society) when published.

Jeff Pritchard's *Gobrecht Journal* Article, "Disappearing Halves and Quarters"

In the latest issue of the *Gobrecht Journal* (#155), Jeff Pritchard offers a comprehensive look into the economic conditions and Congressional missteps that brought about the so called "Ultra-low mintage years of 1879-1890 for Seated Halves and Quarters." These Congressional missteps also ushered in the prolific Morgan Dollar and explain the necessity of re-opening the New Orleans Mint.

I personally found Jeff's work to be fascinating with many details I was unaware of. As there are so many Morgan collectors out there I plan to read the two page section concerning Morgan Dollars at my local coin club. I believe they will find this portion of the article interesting and I hope will further highlight the expansive knowledge available within the LSCC.

1846-O WB-25 Large (Tall) Date Liberty Seated Half (Feature Variety)

The 1846-O WB-25 is the rarest die variety of the sought after 1846-O Large date Seated Half Dollar. I became interested in this die variety after I stumbled upon one in an NGC-50 holder, that is in fact XF, a few months back. After searching the Heritage archives and Bill Bugert's Register I came up with a total of six examples including mine and Randy Wiley's plate coin from Bugert's book.

In the last issue of Half Crazy (#18), I asked members to investigate their collections for examples of this die variety. Two members came up with three examples (with photos), bringing the total known (to me) to 9. While there are very likely more out there, Bill Bugert's Rarity-6 rating is safe for now.

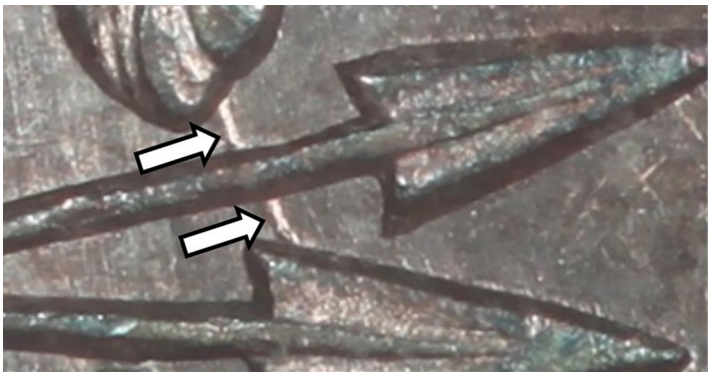
The distinctive die cracks on the reverse (reverse K) make the die variety easy to spot (see figure?). From the denticles through HALF and back down to the denticles. A second die crack from the denticles through the middle of D in D(ol). This is the third use of this reverse die but the only use with the large date (obverse 9).

A PCGS-40 CAC, Certification number 38188793, was sold twice on Heritage in 2019 and 2020, advertised as WB-25 but is in fact WB-26 Rarity-4. Be sure to verify an advertised variety to confirm it is in fact the variety you are bidding on or buying. Any other members that still wish to include their 1846-O WB-25 coin(s) on my list please feel free to contact me Dennis Fortier ricajun@msn.com.

Number	Grade	Cert Numb	Sold	Price
1	NGC-50 (XF-40)	4885088-009	2025	$2,900
2	PCGS-35	30805402	2016	$1527
3	Raw VF-25	*Plate Coin		
4	NGC-6	4885088-009	2019	$150
5	ANACS-6	1274601	2004	$178
6	NGC-40 Details Scratched	3382033-004	2011	$402
7	Raw G-6	Member #21		
8	Raw G-4	Member #6		
9	Raw G-4	Member #6		

*Rany Wiley Plate Coin from Bugert's Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar New Orleans Varieties 1840-O-1852-O

Can You Identify This Die Variety (challenge)



One member correctly identified this die variety (above and right) as 1842-P WB-3.

This issues challenge (below) requires some hints. This die variety can be found in Bill Bugert's addenda sheet on the club website.

Note: the date placement is important.

Photos by Bill Bugert.

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1846 Medium and Large (Tall) Date (Feature Article)

In 1846 Half Dollars were produced at both the Philadelphia and New Orleans Mints. Mintages were 2.2 million and 2.3 million respectively. So, neither issue as a generic issue can be considered rare. Within the basic issue of these coins are several difficult die varieties, date sizes, and die states. We begin with the Philadelphia issues.

The 1846 Philadelphia Liberty Seated Half Dollar

Philadelphia produced over two million half dollars in 1846. There are two date sizes, Medium and Large (Tall) dates. There are a total of 17 die Varieties with 10 being Medium dates and 7 being Large dates.

While no single die variety is rarer than Rarity-4, the most interesting die variety from Philadelphia in WB-7 the 1846 Over Horizontal 6 **(see figure?).** A so-called eyeball variety that is very popular with connoisseurs of Liberty Seated Half Dollars. With only a Rarity rating of 3 it is pricey but not rare.

Overlay at left: rendition of how the initial 6 may have been punched into the working die. Note how the remnants match the errant 6.

The so-called 1846 over 5 was proved by Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert to be a 6 and not a 5 **(see figure?).** There are three die marriages for this variety. All are Rarity-3. WB-10 is a Double-die Obverse Rarity-3.

Medium date and Large Date comparison.
The 1846 Large (Tall) date has 7 die varieties and all are Rarity-3.
With just a handful of Proofs known, all are Medium dates.

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The 1846-O New Orleans Liberty Seated Half Dollar

New Orleans produced 2.3 million half dollars in 1846. There are 27 die varieties with 21 Medium dates and 6 Large dates. Mixed into all this there are Double-Die Obverses, over-dates, cuds, and rare die varieties.

The Medium dates are WB-1 through 21. WB-1 through 11 are Rarity-3 and 4. The 1846-O 6 over 6 variety (obverse 5) has four die varieties, WB-12,13,14, and 15. All are Rarity-3 except for WB-15 which is Rarity-6.

There are four Double-die Obverse varieties (Obverse 6), WB-17 thru 20. WB-17 and 18 are Rarity-6, and WB-19 and 20 are Rarity-4. Other rare Medium dates are WB-15 Rarity-6, and WB-21 is Rarity-5 giving collectors many rare die varieties to hunt for.

For Late Die State Cud lovers there are several to hunt for in the 1846-O Medium date varieties. WB-2/5/6/ and 16 are Rarity-5 and WB-17 is Rarity-6.

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The Darling of 1846

The 1846-O Large (Tall) Date is the darling of the entire date. It's also the most expensive. WB-22 thru 27 are the die varieties for the Large date. All are Rarity-4 except WB-24 which is Rarity-5, and WB-25 which is Rarity-6. A deep dive into the 1846-O WB-25 can be seen in the Featured Variety section of this issue.

Two obverse dies were used to make all six die varieties, obverses 8 and 9. Obverse 8 was used for WB-22 and 23, obverse 9 was used for WB-24 thru 27. It is the reverse dies that were changed out with each die variety. The date and mintmark placements are very close on each die variety making die variety recognition difficult. We must rely on die cracks for die identification.

The total 1846-O Large (Tall) date population at PCGS is 114, 64 at NGC, and 54 at ANACS, for a total of 232 graded coins. This number includes 28 NGC details coins. An estimate of total 1846-O Large date population, considering Bugert's rarity ratings could be 350-500. The mint-state population is surprisingly low with a total of just seven graded in mint-state at PCGS (4) and NGC (3). The highest graded is an NGC-63.

A complete die variety collection of 1846 Liberty Seated half dollars would be quite an accomplishment for any Liberty Seated Half Dollar enthusiast. Good hunting.

Be Half Crazy with Us!

We love to hear from our members!
Have your articles, stories and photos included in the next issue of the Seated Half Society's journal *Half Crazy*.
Email editor Dennis Fortier at ricajun@msn.com.

Deadline for the next issue is **July 1, 2026**.